

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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Changes in Common Names

Peter C. Petersen
235 McClellan Blvd.
Davenport, Iowa

The latest issue of the *Auk*-Vol. 90, No. 2, April, 1973 p. 411-419 contains a supplement to the A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (1957, fifth edition). Some of these changes have been required by changes in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and involve the Latin names only. The remainder are for taxonomic reasons based on findings published in the last sixteen years or to in some way improve upon the common names. Many of these include changes in common names and are covered insofar as they apply to species occurring in Iowa. They are listed in checklist order and should be noted before submitting material to *Iowa Bird Life* for publication. The name found in the 1957 checklist is listed first for each species and the reason for the change is included.

Common Egret is now Great Egret to substitute for the modifier "common" a short but more meaningful modifier already widely used.

Blue Goose is now Snow Goose as the two geese have been found to be color morphs of the same species which interbreed regularly.

American Widgeon is now American Wigeon to agree with the British spelling.

Shoveler is now Northern Shoveler to provide a specific modifier when the same group name is used for another Western Hemisphere species.

Common Scoter is now Black Scoter for the same reason as the egret name change.

Harlan's Hawk is eliminated as a species, being now considered a sub-species of the Red-tailed Hawk.

Pigeon Hawk is now Merlin to facilitate conformity with international usage.

Sparrow Hawk is now American Kestrel for the same reason as the former species.

Upland Plover is now Upland Sandpiper to avoid a misleading taxonomic implication (the bird is not a plover).

Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flicker both become Common Flicker as they interbreed regularly.

Traill's Flycatcher is split into two species on the basis of call. Breeding birds in Iowa, which have the "fitz-brew" call, are now called Willow Flycatcher, while birds breeding in the older thickets in the north which migrate through the state and have the call "fee-bee-o" are called Alder Flycatcher.

Catbird is now Gray Catbird for the same reason as the Shoveler.

Robin is now American Robin for the same reason as the Shoveler also.

Parula Warbler is now Northern Parula for the same reason again.

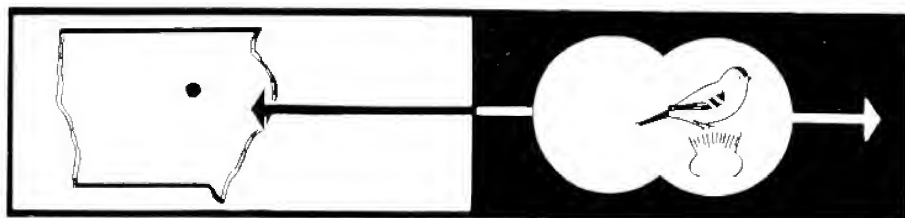
Myrtle Warbler and Audubon's Warbler are now Yellow-rumped Warbler as they regularly interbreed.

Yellowthroat is now Common Yellowthroat for the same reason as the Shoveler.

Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole are now Northern Oriole as they regularly interbreed.

Slate-colored Junco and Oregon Junco, along with several other juncos, are now Dark-eyed Junco due to interbreeding.

The reasons listed for the changes are perhaps oversimplified in the interest of brevity. The article in the *Auk* provides references for the actions of the committee. If one keeps their life list on the basis of the A. O. U. checklist a revision is in order. The author "lost" seven life birds, "gained" two for a net change of five. The next edition of the A. O. U. checklist will, for the first time, include all North American birds, not just those north of Mexico.



Birding Areas of Iowa: Waterloo - Black Hawk and nearby counties

MORTEN KONIG
1125 N. 12th St.
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Waterloo 1970 population: 77,553

Average annual precipitation: 31.8 inches

Normal mean annual temperature average: 47.5 degrees

Area covered by this report: about 2,435 square miles

Introduction

The Waterloo area is mostly farm land but there are so many creeks and rivers that the landscape is seldom melancholy. In fact, almost every good birding area is located on a creek or river. The most prominent of these is the Cedar River. It is composed of three smaller rivers -- the West Fork, Shell Rock, and Little Cedar Rivers. The three run together north of Cedar Falls and form the main body of the Cedar. Another well-known river is the Wapsipinicon. Along its banks are many fine county parks. Many creeks are also productive and one of the best is Beaver. There are several state parks which offer everything from lakes to canyons the glaciers missed. The author recommends that you do a lot of your birding along the creeks and rivers. Check all the parks as well as inviting private property. In the latter case do not forget to obtain permission from the landowner. Farmers in this area are nice about letting you bird on their property, but should they catch you trespassing-off to the sheriff with you. All good areas are not on bodies of water. Farm lands which get flooded in the spring are good places to look for ducks and geese. The farmland in Bremer county and around the town of Shell Rock in Butler County seem to be especially inviting to these birds and even swans may be seen at times. Grundy County does not have a single good birding area to my knowledge. It is reputed that there wasn't a single tree in the whole county

before the settlers came. This is not hard to believe since the only natural bodies of water are narrow, intermittent streams. There are no specific areas mentioned in Buchanan County. Check along the Wapsipinicon. I might also add that the accompanying map shows only the roads that are necessary to arrive at the areas mentioned.

Waterloo Green Belt Area -- This is a city-owned area along Black Hawk Creek. The best areas are the two city parks located in the area. Hope Martin Park is easy to find at the south fork of highways 63 and 218 on Fletcher Avenue. Byrnes Park is just south of highway 63, also on Fletcher Avenue. Both parks are hard to miss as they are well-marked with large signs. Both parks have extensive woodlands, and provide cover for such transients as vireos, warblers, thrushes, and kinglets.

Black Hawk Park -- Located along the Cedar River, from Cedar Falls to the Janesville road, this is the finest county park. To reach it, drive one mile north from Cedar Falls on highway 218, then 1 mile west on Lone Tree Road. The park is marked with a sign. The first point of interest is the County Conservation Office at the entrance to the park. Here there is literature available on the county parks. A road winds through many good areas in the southern third of the park. If you wish to go farther north, you must walk. Black Hawk Park is mostly woodland with some open fields where Le Conte's Sparrows may be present. There are typical woodland birds, as well, including breeding Great Horned Owls; Red-tailed Hawks, and occasionally a Bald or Golden Eagle overhead, although these are not likely sights. On the river itself you can find geese and egrets. There are also some of the more unusual ducks such as Redheads and Hooded Mergansers. In 1972, the author went on a May big day trip here and recorded 51 species in twenty acres of land in four hours.

George Wyth Memorial State Park -- This is a large park located on the Cedar River. It may be reached through a well-marked entrance just east of the airport on highway 20. A long road winds through the park. This used to be open at both ends so you could enter the park in Cedar Falls as well. Expansion and straightening of highway 20 has, however, closed this entrance permanently to cars. There are many lakes and woodlands. An unusual breeding bird is the Red-shouldered Hawk. A pair of them have nested in the park for several years now. The birds themselves are often seen in the western end of the park. Red-tailed Hawks are also common and are believed to be breeding. There is also a lot of dense brush which is quite impenetrable in summer and fall. This provides many species with nesting cover, including Wood Thrushes. Accipiters are common migrants in the park, although not often seen.

Washington Park -- This is a city park on the Cedar River in Cedar Falls. To reach it drive 12 blocks south on Main Street, from First Street or 15 blocks north from University Avenue. Turn east on 12th Street and drive to its end at the park. Most of it is a golf course and adjoining pond. Regular visitors to this pond include Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, and Solitary Sandpipers. When the river floods the park in the spring, Mallards and Common Mergansers are often seen. The nearby railroad tracks with the pond on one side and woods on the other are excellent sparrow habitat. Sharp-tailed Sparrows are often present. The woods are good for woodland species including a Merlin that was seen in September of 1972.

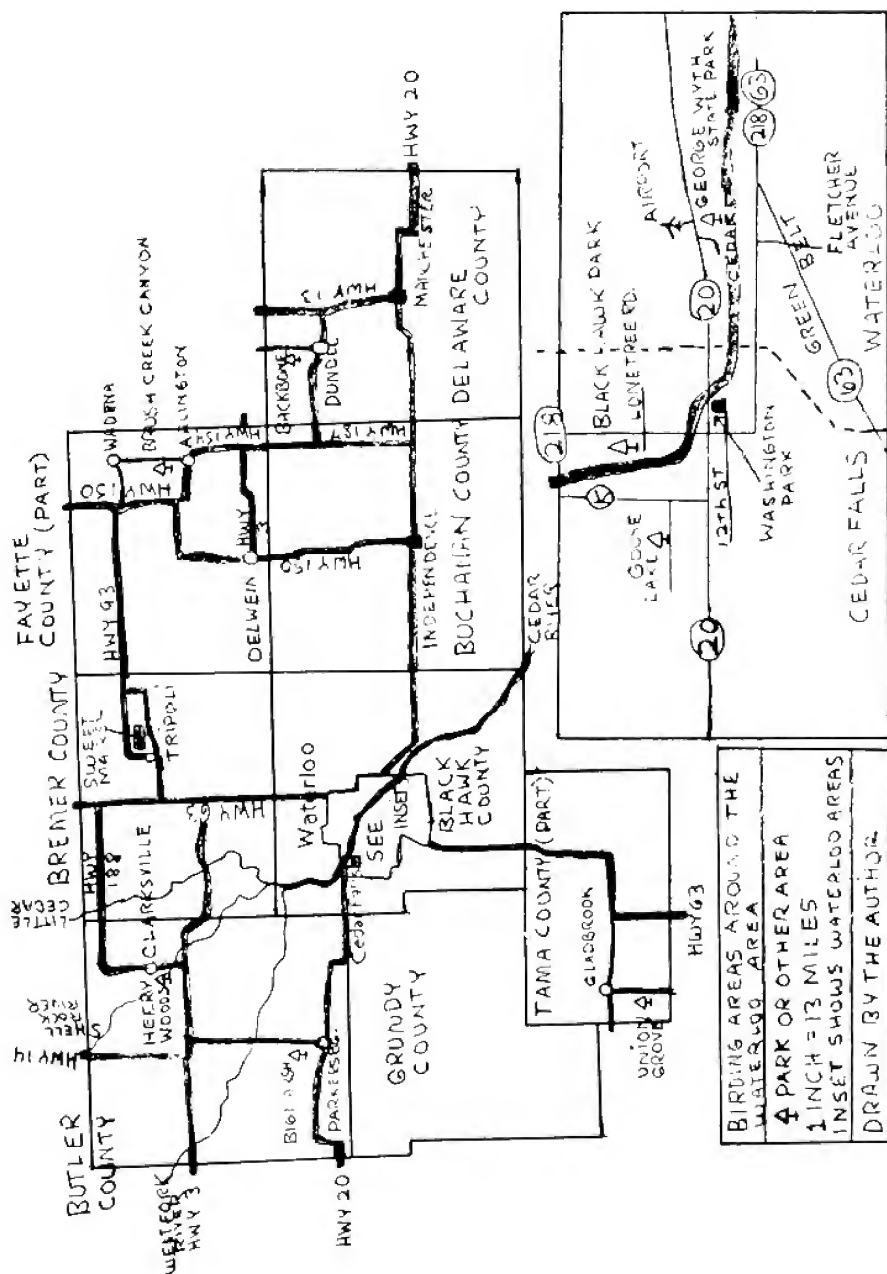
Goose Lake -- A privately owned hunting area, it is also good for bird-watchers. To reach it, drive 2 miles west of Cedar Falls on highway 20. Turn then north on county road K. Turn west at the first crossing after driving over several bridges that cross Beaver Creek. Drive westward for 2.5 miles until you come to a long driveway on the north side of the road with a chain blocking the drive and evergreens visible at its far end. Goose Lake is highly productive for marshbirds. Breeding species include the Least Bittern, American Bittern, Green Heron, ducks, Soras, Coots and Black Terns. Visitors include White Pelicans, Egrets, herons, and countless species of ducks. There are many other lakes in the area that should be explored. Unfortunately there is not space to list them here.

Union Grove State Park -- A favorable birding habitat, it combines a large lake with woodlands. To reach it, drive 26 miles south of Waterloo on highway 63. Where 63 turns south again after an "L" bend, continue straight ahead on the road to Gladbrook. In Gladbrook turn south on the county road that runs through town. The lake is good for waterbirds in migration and the woods provide some good warbler habitat.

Big Marsh -- This is a state-owned area which is all marsh. To get there, drive 19 miles west of Cedar Falls on highway 20. In Parkersburg, turn north on highway 14 and drive five miles to the north. Watch for a road turning in front of a dike. Turn west on this and continue for about 1.5 miles until you see a road leading down to the water. The best way to explore the marsh is by canoe, however, the average birder can find many birds from the road that runs on dikes all along the edges of the marsh. The road has a total length of about six miles so you may not want to walk that far. Geese and ducks are almost always present (especially the ducks). Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks are commonly seen. American Coots, Soras, and Virginia Rails are common, although the rails are harder to find and best seen early in the morning. Short-eared Owls are often seen at dusk flying low above the marsh. Great Egrets and Black Ducks are less common visitors. You may want to see the flocks of thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds that roost in the reeds during migration.

Sweet Marsh -- This is a 200-acre combination marsh and woodland owned by the Bremer County Conservation Board, whose office is located at the north end of the marsh. To reach it, drive 18 miles north on highway 63 from Waterloo. Turn east on highway 93. Drive through Tripoli on the route. The entrance to the park is on the south side of the road just east of the bridge over the Wapsipinicon. After you have viewed this area, continue east and turn south on the first road you come to. There are many good areas at the point where this road turns east. After looking here, continue east, turning south at the first intersection and west, again at the first intersection. As soon as you hit the blacktop and cross the Wapsipinicon, there is a road going north into the southern end of the marsh.

As for the birds you can expect to find, ducks top the list and it is quite common to see 16 species of them on a one day trip to the marsh. Swans are often seen resting on their way north. Geese are less common. Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Sparrow Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and Marsh Hawks were once seen at Sweet Marsh, all on the same day. You will not find water in the eastern part, rather, there are trees, bushes and fields. This is as good a place as any to view transient songbirds.

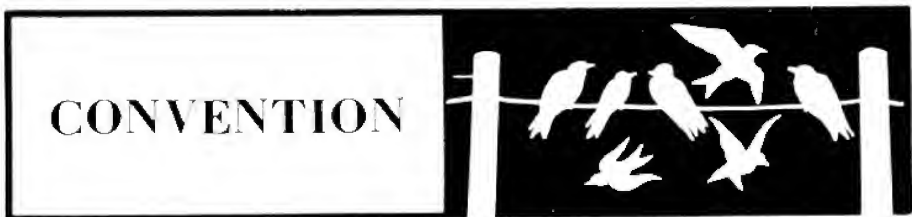


Brush Creek Canyon State Park -- This is in Fayette County. To get there, drive to Oelwein, then continue north on highway 150. Turn east onto highway 154 where the two meet. In Wadena, turn north on the county road and you are soon there. The park seems to provide just the right habitat for such breeding species as Cerulean Warblers, Louisiana Water Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers.

Backbone State Park -- This is a large park which has the strangest make-up of any state park in the area. The area is very steep and hilly because this is one of the places the glaciers missed when they scoured Iowa. There are wonderful forests and canyons. To get there, drive north on highway 13 from Manchester until you reach the turnoff to Dundee. Continue north of Dundee to the park. The park is excellent for birds the year around and Bald Eagles are actually regular here!

Heery Woods State Park -- This is a tract of virgin forest on the Shell Rock River just south of Clarksville on highway 188. A good, all-round birding area.

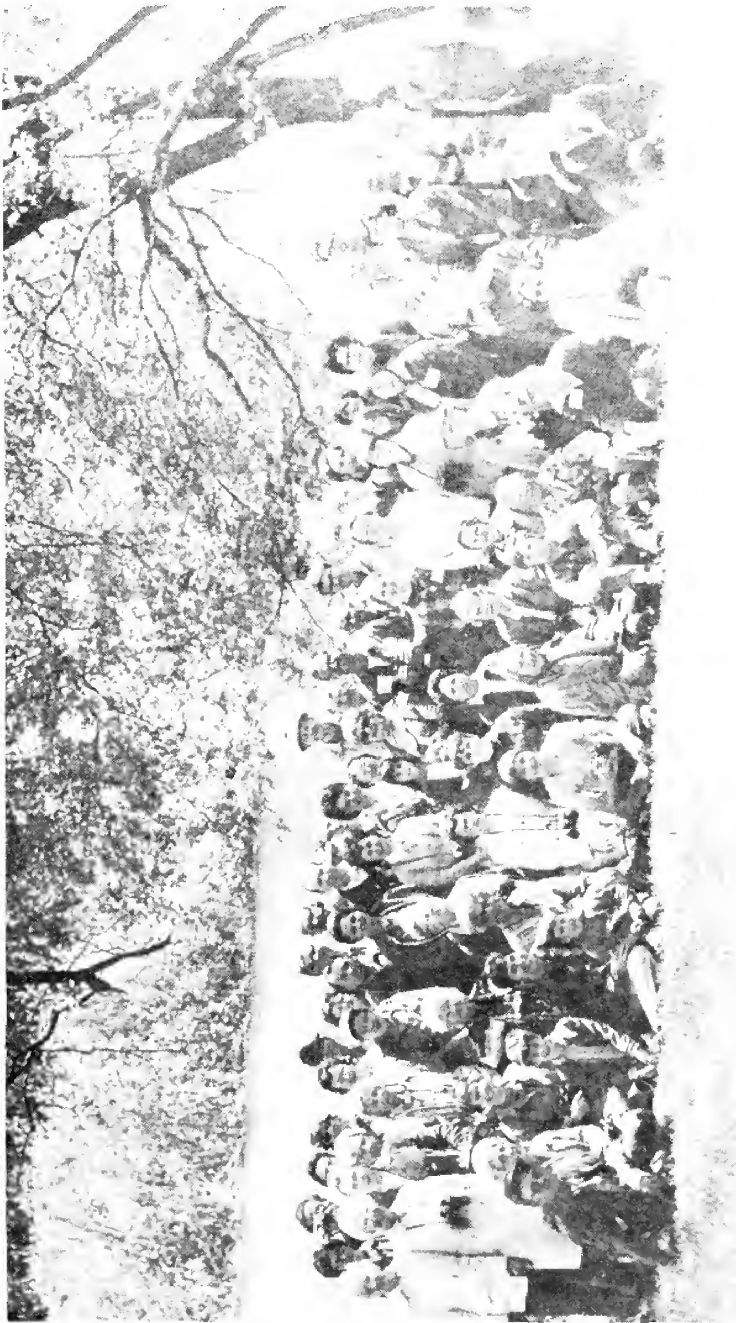
Needless to say there are many other areas which cannot all be mentioned here. This is a pity because many of these are so good for birding. There comes a rainy or otherwise undesirable day for birdwatching . . . Check the bird exhibits at the Waterloo Museum at 4th and Washington, also at the University Museum at 31st and Hudson in Cedar Falls. The UNI Library on the campus has many good bird books and magazines. Last of all, I want to wish you happy birding in the Waterloo area.



51st Annual Convention, Des Moines

MARY LOU PETERSEN
235 McClellan Blvd.
DAVENPORT, IOWA

The fifty-first annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union convention convening in the Holiday Inn, South of Des Moines, began with a pre-official welcome by Joe Brown of Des Moines. With the aid of Claudia Nickolson drawing the lucky numbers, door prizes were awarded to some members. The official welcome followed by Sylvan T. Runkel, President of the Des Moines Audubon Society. Mr. Runkel called our attention to the exhibits by Irene Smith and the artwork on display from the Sutton Gallery. I. O. U. President John Osness responded to the warm Des Moines welcome and added a request for persons to consider volunteering for one of the executive vacancies for the 1973-74 year.



After field trip, Des Moines - May 13, 1973. Photo by Jim Rod.

The excellent slate of programs began with Sylvan T. Runkel, **Natural Citizens of Brown's Woods**. Mr. Runkel, who has recently been elected to the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame, discussed the lessons for man's communities which could be learned from a natural community. He pointed out numerous climax forest plants, many of which are edible or have medicinal properties, drawing chiefly on Brown's Woods for his examples.

Carl Kurtz of St. Anthony followed Mr. Runkel with a fascinating presentation, **The Living Marsh**. Mr. Kurtz pointed out how man is dependent more than ever on marshland but seems bent on the destruction of marshland and how this destruction is often done in the name of "flood control". Mr. Kurtz's photography was excellent and his message was educational as well as highly entertaining.

After the noon recess the program continued with Dirk V. Dirksen's informative paper on **The Natural History of the Adelie Penguin**. Mr. Dirksen of Iowa State University, outlined the general life history of the Adelie Penguin with stress on its behavior.

Following the Adelie Penguin paper members continued their "down-under" ornithological education with a paper, **Survey of New Zealand Birds**, given by Richard Crawford, also of ISU. Mr. Crawford showed slides of many of the interesting birds found in New Zealand and particularly stressed the native species.

Larry Stone of Des Moines and Jim Rod of Ames ended the afternoon's papers with **Up in the Air with Owls**. A series of photographs of two Great Horned Owl nests were shown. The second was very high and required elaborate scaffolding which withstood the rigors of supporting Mr. Stone and especially Mr. Rod but was toppled by a severe wind storm a few days before the meeting.

After a brief coffee break, President John Osness called the fifty-first annual I. O. U. business meeting to order. Peter Petersen moved that the minutes not be read as they were published in the **Iowa Bird Life**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Darrell Hanna and the motion carried. Treasurer, Antoinette Camarata submitted the following report.

I. O. U. Financial Statement

May 12, 1973

Balance on hand 6-1-72 \$1,477.16

RECEIPTS:

Memberships	\$1,176.75	
Check lists	20.00	
Bird Life Subscriptions	183.98	
Brassards	4.00	
Decals	1.00	
Annotated lists	4.00	
Fall Meeting	307.25	
Interest--First Federal	88.95	\$1,785.93
		\$3,263.09

DISBURSEMENTS:

Fall meeting	252.50	
Spring meeting	205.56	
Editor Fee	100.00	
Postage	63.55	
Telephone	29.02	
Printing	27.28	
Miscellaneous	53.38	
Iowa Bird Life	1,679.02	2,410.31

Balance on hand including Investment Interest	852.78
Balance--National Bank, Waterloo, Checking account	763.83
Deposit--First Federal Savings & Loan	\$1,851.32

The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Old business: Peter C. Petersen, I. B. L. editor, reported that following the changes in the Articles of Incorporation voted on during the 1972 annual meeting, we have been notified that the I. O. U. is considered a not-for-profit organization by the postal department and our postal rate will be lowered.

New business: Peter C. Petersen called for material for the June issue of I. B. L. to be in the week of May 14 as he is sending it to the printer. He again asked for birding area articles and any other articles or photographs members might wish to submit. He reported the cost of printing 550 magazines is now \$14.10 per page. Antoinette Camaratta suggested that the organization save money on postage by sending all notification of dues in *Iowa Bird Life*. This procedure will be worked out between the 1973-74 treasurer and Mr. Petersen.

President Osness named the nominating committee as follows: Darlene Ayres, George Crossley and Woodward Brown. President Osness stated he was glad to see so many of the old faces as well as the new at the meeting. George Crossley asked if there was to be a resolutions committee. President Osness said he would contact members for the committee at the banquet. A motion to recess was made by Jim Rod and seconded by Mrs. Betty Walters. The motion carried.

The annual banquet was held at 6:00 in the Holiday Inn, South. Following the meal a special award was presented by Dean Mosman of Ankeny to Mrs. Gladys Black. The award was a beautiful print by Richard Sloan of the American Goldfinch, state bird of three states including Iowa and signed and sealed by the governors of those states.

The program *The Birds of Music; the Music of Birds* presented by Joe and Dorothy Brown was a very interesting, educational and innovative approach to the songs of birds, the recording of these songs, the production of these songs and their similarities and differences to the musical instruments of man. The program was unusual and most rewarding and was typical of the meticulous endeavors of the Browns.

Sunday morning breakfast was held at Walnut Woods Shelter House. Following the breakfast the group dispersed on birding trips. The group returned to Walnut Woods Shelter for the noon meal. Following the meal the business meeting was reopened by President Osness. A letter from Philip DuMont of Washington, a long time member, was read to the group by Sylvan Runkel. Woodward Brown of the nominating committee read the slate of officers as follows: President, Darlene Ayres of Ottumwa; Vice-president, Richard Crawford of Ames; Secretary, Mary Lou Petersen of Davenport; Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Buckles of Des Moines; Editor, Peter C. Petersen of Davenport; Librarian, Mrs. Patricia Layton of Cedar Rapids; Executive Council, Beryl Layton of Cedar Rapids, Keith Layton of Oskaloosa, Robert Nickolson of Sioux City, and John Osness of Waterloo. Mrs. Margaret Brooke moved that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion and the motion carried.

President John Osness read the following resolutions:

Whereas the fifty-first annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa on May 12 and 13, 1973, that we the members give our thanks to the Des Moines Audubon Society, its officers and members who worked hard and faithfully to host this annual convention of the I. O. U.

1. Be it further resolved that we particularly recognize and thank Slyvan Runkel, Carl Kurtz, Dirk Dirksen, Richard Crawford, Larry Stone and Jim Rod for their presentations.

2. To Dean Mosman for arranging the presentation to Gladys Black.

3. To Joe and Dorothy Brown for their banquet program.

Woodward Brown moved to accept the resolutions, Lillian Serbousek seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Judge Ayres extended a tentative invitation for the next spring meeting in Ottumwa. Jim Rod spoke on the need for funds to pay attorney's fees for the first attempt in the fight to preserve the Ledges State Park.

Jim Rod moved that the business meeting be adjourned. Don Mullison seconded, the motion carried. Judge Charles Ayres led the compilation. One hundred and fifty-two species were seen.

BIRD CENSUS - MAY 13, 1973

Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, American Bittern, Mallard, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Osprey, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forester's Tern, Common Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's

Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow. 152 species. Names correspond to recent changes, see p.35, this issue. ed.

Additional species seen on Saturday only were: Double-crested Cormorant, Belted Kingfisher and Lark Sparrow.

Following the census John Osness introduced the officers and gave a special vote of thanks to Peter Petersen, editor and Mrs. Patricia Layton, librarian. Mrs. Darlene Ayres thanked the group for their vote of confidence.

Registered Attendance

131 registered - at least 23 others purchased tickets for meals but did not register.

AMES: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Brawner, Barnett C. Cook, Richard Crawford, Dirk Dirkson, Jim Rod, Judy Totmeier.

CARLISLE: Mrs. G. A. Johnson.

CEDAR FALLS: Kristy Aswegan, Berneda Collins, Herb Dietz, Jody Drum, L. M. Grootus, Gary Johnson, Judy Jorgenson, Morten Konig, Blanche and Maxine Schwanke.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Sara Millikin, Roberta Oppedahl, Lillian Serbousek.

CORALVILLE: James H. Gritton.

CORNING: Helen Burger.

CRESTON: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Augustine.

DAVENPORT: Don Mullison, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen.

DES MOINES: Mrs. W. E. Alley, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Paul Brown, Woodward Brown, George A. Buck, Ruth Buckles, Stuart and Sue Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chamberlain, Bobby Fox, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Griffith, Randy Hamblen, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Bruce Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mooney, Marcia Nicholson, Mary E. Peck, Mrs. Tom Pettit, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Pratt, Sylvan Runkel, Irene Smith, Larry and Margaret Stone, Virginia Van Liew, Pauline Varce, Ellen Wallace, Mary Ellen Wartens.

DUBUQUE: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley.

ESSEX: Mrs. Betty Walters.

FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward.

HAMBURG: Ione Getscher.

INDIANOLA: Donald De Lisle, Ann Johnson, Rich and Beth McGeough, Kathy Moore.

IOWA CITY: Jim Fuller.

LAMONI: Madeline Ballantyne, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Grace Elswick, Mrs. Pauline Hodges, Mrs. John Raymond.

MARION: Lucile Liljedahl.

MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasgow.

NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.

OSKALOOSA: Kieth and Irene Layton.

OTTUMAW: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Espy.

PATON: Blanche and Wiltse McWilliam.

PLEASANTVILLE: Mrs. Gladys Black.

PRESCOTT: Mrs. George Hermanson.

REINBECK: Mrs. John Ehlers.

ROCK VALLEY: Hilda Miller.

ST. ANTHONY: Carl Kurtz.

SHENANDOAH: Ruth Zollars.

SIoux CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nickolson and Claudia.

WATERLOO: Antoinette Camarata, Richard Evans, H. Fairbanks, Hulda Flynn, Ruth Halliday, Maybelle Hinkeley, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Kirchgatter, Mr. and Mrs. McIntyne, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Mary Ann Rizzo.

WAUKEE: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Clark.

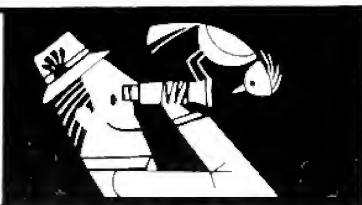
WEST DES MOINES: Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Bearsley and Alan.

WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp.

WOODWARD: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guthrie.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus.

FIELD REPORTS



Spring 1973

Due to the combination of a generally late migration, and a slightly earlier than usual closing date for this issue, the notes on the migration are rather fragmentary. Any items of unusual interest should be included with the summer season notes. Temperatures since mid-February and up to early May, with the exception of the April first blizzard, have been usually high, but the spring season thus far may be described in one word "wet". The Red Rock area has 50,000 acres under water beside the 9,000 acre normal pool. (New common names mentioned in article on p. 35 of this issue are used in this report. ed.)

Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. Pied-billed are common, but only a few Horned reported; late April, 4 on Cedar Lake (LS), 1 on 21 April (GB), and 1 on 27 April (LM). Storm Lake had 24 White Pelicans on 10 April (RM), and 7 were on the flood waters near Des Moines on 12 May. Ten Double-crested Cormorants were seen with the pelicans on Storm Lake and one near Des Moines on 12 May.

Hérons, Swans. Great Blue Herons failed to return to Red Rock, due to the depth of water under the heronry, and only one was seen (GB), but 50 nests were seen at Rathbun on 4 May (Larry Wing, fide GB). There was thought to be a good migration (RM), but only 3 were seen (NH). Cattle Egrets were noted at Rock Island on 3 May (PP) and at Avoca on the 12th (EAG), with 14 in the Iowa City area early in May (FK) (see longer note). Great Egrets were reported as seen from 29 March (ECG) to 13 May near Des Moines (PP). An American Bittern was seen on 9 May (LS) and another was reported at the spring meeting compilation. Feral Mute Swans appeared 24 March and nested at the New London Country Club, but heavy rains flooded the nest (FJ). Two Whistling Swans were at the Ankeny ponds on 17 April (WHB).

Geese, Ducks. The goose migration appeared to have been early with few seen. Ducks likewise came early and had a short stay (PP). Very few were seen (ECG). Mallards were way down (HD, RM) with very few in Polk Co. where numerous in past years. Wood Ducks were up (MK) and nesting in a number of areas (GB). Two pairs of Canvasbacks on 8 March were early (MH). Lesser Scaups were the most numerous species in the Des Moines area, and the Red Rock population was estimated at 150,000 by John Beamer. Buffleheads were thought up (MK). Ruddyies

were thought more than usual (LS, HM). No mergansers were seen (RM), but 150 Common were present on 10 March (GB).

Vultures, Eagles, Hawks. Turkey Vultures appeared rather early on 20 March, with two roosts containing more than 25 (GB). The Goshawks seen early in March may have been wintering birds of which a number were reported (WC, PP, NH). Red-tailed Hawks had completed 4 nests, one in a heron nest (GB). A flight of 17 Broadwings was seen on 29 April (NH). Bald Eagles were seen early in March with 9 observed (GB), 5 at Coralville on the 11th (LS), and an immature at Sweet's Marsh on the 17th (MK). Few Marsh Hawks or Ospreys were mentioned, with one Merlin seen on 24 April (PK). An excellent migration of American Kestrels (RM), but thought scarce (GB).

Shorebirds. The pronounced lack of waders, other than American Coots which are everywhere in numbers, may be due to a late migration, or to the abundance of flooded fields causing them to be widely scattered. A Virginia Rail was seen on 9 May (EA). An American Woodcock on 17 March was rather early (PP). Their nuptial display was watched on 16 April (NH), and other seen at Lake Ahquabi (AJ). A Western Sandpiper was seen on 9 May (LS). Both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were observed on 20 April near Des Moines (DM, WHB).

Gulls. A Glaucous Gull, seen on 17 March at the edge of town (WC) was observed for two weeks on Gray's Lake in the city by many observers. Another was at Credit Island, Davenport on 4 March (PP). Herring Gulls were unusually numerous near Des Moines. Franklin's Gulls were seen on 17 March (LS) and early in April near Des Moines. Bonaparte's Gulls were reported in late April (HJ), and one was seen on 7 April (LS).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows. Unusually large migrations of Common Flickers were noticed on 15 and 16 April (GB, DM). There were thought more Sapsuckers than usual (RM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen on 26 April at Bettendorf (Ray Brockway, fide PP). Fairly numerous mixed flocks of swallows, but few Purple Martins were seen (GB). Martins were thought more numerous (EAG).

Nuthatches, Wrens. Red-breasted Nuthatches, while not too numerous during the winter, are still coming to feeders. Bewick's Wrens, which have come each year and remained until the arrival of the House Wrens, failed to appear (GB). There are 2 and possible 3 pairs of Carolina Wrens where there were none last year (EAG), and they are seen in many places around Burlington (JF).

Mimics, Thrushes. Mockingbirds have returned to the Pleasantville area where there are at least 2 pairs (GB) and 2 were seen at different points near Booneville (EA). American Robins returned in numbers with a flock conservatively estimated at 1,000 seen in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 11 March (HP). None of the *Hylocicla* thrushes have been seen (GB) and those observed were late (PK). An early Wood Thrush was seen on 19 April (PP), and Hermit Thrushes on 18 February (LS) and 26 March (MK) were very early. Bluebirds have been very scarce (GB).

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are usually scarce and 3 (RM) and 4 (GB) are noteworthy. There were good flights of Golden-crowned Kinglets early in April (MK, NH). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were numerous in the last half of April according to many, and were abundant on the 12 May week-end (NH). No kinglets were seen (ECG), but both were thought more numerous than usual (PK).

Shrikes, Vireos. A Loggerhead Shrike on 19 March was either a wintering bird or an early migrant (LS). There are 3 nesting pairs (GB). A White-eyed Vireo was

seen on 5 May (PP). Few of the more common vireos have been seen.

Warblers. The warbler migration appears to have been rather thin with one report of a good wave on 5 May (DeL), and a number of small movements in the second week of May. There are two records of the Worm-eating (PP,WC), and more Golden-winged and Blue-winged than usual have been seen. On the other hand, neither the usually common Tennessee nor the Yellow-rumped has appeared in the usual numbers.

Icterida, Finches. A flock of about 100 Rusty Blackbirds was seen on 25 February (MH). A number of very large flocks of Brewer's Blackbirds in flight were observed toward the end of March and the first of April (SB), and on 4 April many hundreds were seen feeding in fields west of Des Moines (PM,WHB). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in winter plumage came to a feeder on 7 April and was joined by a female the following day (HJ). Evening Grosbeaks, either wintering or migrants are reported widely. Purple Finches which were not too numerous during the winter, have been coming in numbers to feeders since mid-April. A Pine Siskin carrying nesting material on 5 May was unusual (DM,WC). Red Crossbills which appeared early last fall have remained with 5 seen on 2 and 8 May (DeL), they are still present at Davenport 17 May (PP). A Rufous-sided Towhee of the spotted variety was seen with some regularity until early May (HP). An early LeConte's Sparrow was seen on 24 March (MK), and another on 5 May (WC). Most Dark-eyed Juncos appeared to have left rather early. Chipping Sparrows appeared in mid-March which is early (PK). Harris' Sparrows were considered scarce or missing entirely (NH), with one seen as late as 10 May (EAG). White-throated were thought to be in unusually large numbers (DeL), but none seen (ECG). Fox Sparrows were also numerous in the Lamoni area (DeL). The two Snow Buntings reported were seen on 15 February (NH) and 20 March (SB).

Contributors: Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Stuart Burns, Des Moines; Wm. Criswell, Des Moines; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Darrow, Newton; Jane Fuller, Burlington; Mrs. E. A. Getscher, Hamburg; Msgr. E. C. Greer, Victor; Dr. Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Ann Johnson, Indianola; Helen Johnson, Carlisle; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Morten Konig, Cedar Falls; Dick Mooney, Pauline Mooney, Des Moines; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Lillian Serbousek Cedar Rapids. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

Notes on the summer season should be submitted by 20 September.

GENERAL NOTES



A First-aid Demonstration. While visiting the Robert Haynes' home near Lake Wales, Florida, a Catbird flew into a picture window and we were given a demonstration of avian first aid. Since the bird appeared to be merely stunned, Mrs. Haynes obtained a paper bag, punched a few small air holes, placed the bird in it and closed it tightly. After 15 or 20 minutes had elapsed the bag was taken outside and opened whereupon the bird flew away. Mrs. Haynes explained the

darkness tended to calm the bird, and it could not injure itself by fluttering and trying to escape. She also said that by holding a stunned bird in ones hands the warmth often hastened the return to consciousness. - WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines.

One Day Bald Eagle Count, February 17 or 18, 1973 -- Again, most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, as well as a portion of the Wisconsin River and all of the Illinois River from Ottawa to Grafton was covered. Kentucky was again covered by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. In some of the other areas that came in, some good coverage was made in Nebraska, mostly by the big Bend Audubon Society. The area from Bellevue to Warsaw, Ill. was again covered by cars and an airplane. Careful comparison was made. In some of this route cars are better but over most of the area the plane does best. Peter Petersen did the plane counting. Dr. L. H. Princen handled the Illinois River coverage. The St. Louis Audubon Society with 125 people counting again led all groups. A total of over 450 people took part. These were Lockmasters, Fish and Wildlife and Game Management personnel as well as many bird-watchers. My thanks to all.

Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	122	24	1	147
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 19	322	87	0	409
Lock & Dam 20 to Pool 22	27	8	0	35
Pool 22 to below St. Louis	88	43	8	139
Illinois River	66	70	6	142
River Totals	625	232	15	872
River percentage	73	27		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	26	23	0	49
Kentucky	12	24	7	43
Totals	663	279	22	964
Percentage	70	30		
Other Reports				
Missouri	4	1	0	5
Nebraska	128	39	11	178
Totals	132	40	11	183
Percentage	76.7	23.3		

Golden Eagles -- 3 adults and 4 immatures in Illinois Wildlife Refuges.

Also on Feb. 24 -- 1 adult and 2 immatures at Whitewater Refuge in Minnesota.

Comments: Most observers reported the coldest December on record January and February were mild with ice leaving the river. This dispersed the eagles greatly. The day before the count it dropped to 5 above and Saturday morning, the 17th, it dropped to 15 below. Sunday was warm with much fog. These were the temperatures at Moline, Ill. and this type of weather seems to be true for the complete river. Much floating and shore ice formed until the brief cold snap. This, with the new snow, brought the eagles back to the prime fishing areas on the river. The few spots that were checked on both days showed more eagles Sunday. Next year it might be necessary to restrict the count to Sunday. The reverse was true in Kentucky where bays and inlets were frozen due to cold weather. On dault Golden Eagle was found in the state, a week later 3 were found. In Missouri 100 miles of the Missouri River was covered by the Columbia Audubon Society and only 1 eagle, an adult, was found. The coverage was from Glasgow to Hermann. None found from Lexington to Kansas. Two between Atchison, Kansas and St. Joseph, Mo. by R. C. Dawson. - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Illinois.

Clark's Nutcracker sightings in Iowa, Winter 1972-73 -- As a result of my article "Clark's Nutcracker" published in the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, Feb. 4, 1973, I received over 60 letters reporting nutcracker sightings. I eliminated over half, perhaps unjustly. If they reported the bird in a multiflora rose hedge, I judged it likely to be a Mockingbird. If it was seen perched along a fence row or harassing smaller birds, it probably was a shrike. If it was seen at a suet feeder close up I accepted it as a valid record. Many persons knew the birds from mountain camping and several photographs. I received 2 and 3 letters from several towns. with a high of 5 from Hull, these I accepted.

One Warren County lady reported a Clark's Nutcracker in Oct. 1969. I consider hers a valid record as she had grown up on a ranch in the west and knew the bird well. I also received a few reports from Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. Dr. George D. Schrimper, Curator, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, Iowa City informed me that the Museum has a Clark's Nutcracker specimen collected by A. W. Hemphill at Tiffin on Nov. 27, 1919. - GLADYS B. BLACK, Pleasantville.

An Early Plymouth County Red Crossbill Record -- On the morning of Aug. 27, 1972 I received a call from Mr. Leslie Lorensen of Akron, Iowa, asking if I could come and try to identify some strange looking birds that were visiting his feeders and a row of sunflowers growing along his house. He said the birds were quite tame and had crossed bills. I wasn't able to get there until shortly after noon which isn't usually a good bird watching time but hoped to see his visiting birds. Les said the birds had been coming for nearly two weeks and were so tame that once one had eaten sunflower seeds from his hand. He also indicated the birds were becoming more wary and less of them were coming. I waited around for some time and finally one bird visited a feeder and flew into a nearby tree. I was able to study the bird very closely from about 25 feet with 7 x 50 binoculars. Without question it was a crossbill. There was no white in the wings so the brownish, much streaked plumage with just indications of red beginning to appear at the throat identified them as juvenile Red Crossbills. The original flock of perhaps twelve birds steadily dwindled and Les reported that they were not seen many more times after Aug. 27.

I suspect Les and Mrs. Lorensen will make some more interesting observations as they are admirably located within one half mile of the wooded area along the Big Sioux River and also close to farm land so with their fine assortment of feeders and electrically heated waterer their chances are excellent. I was happy to help them get a good field guide which should make their bird watching more enjoyable. - ELDON BRYANT, RR1, Akron.

Cattle Egrets in Johnson County -- On May 3, 1973, I stopped where the high water was over the road from the high level of Coralville Reservoir west. From a flooded field of high grass a small white heron flew out and over the car so fast that I had only quick look at it. It's small size and dark legs (against the sky) could only suggest a Snowy Egret to me, but I wished I could have had a better look at it.

The next day Tom and I went to Swan Lake. On roadside and in a wet field north of road were some white herons and it only took a moment to identify them as Cattle Egrets. They were quite close and unconcerned so we watched and photographed them in good sunlight as they fed and preened. While we were there some 14 showed up. The pinkish bill and legs, buffy crown and breast quite distinctive. A few had greenish legs so perhaps it was one of these I had seen the day before, clearing up a doubtful identification I would have been reluctant to report. - F. W. KENT, 302 Richards, Iowa City.



Cattle Egrets in field near Swan Lake. (50 mm lens)



Pair of Cattle Egrets, in center of above picture, (telephoto lens).

Photos by F. W. Kent



One Life for the Survival of Another -- The record breaking April blizzard of '73 turned out to be instrumental in making it possible for me to take photographs of a Sparrow Hawk. You see these colorful little falcons perched on telephone wires and fences. But when you stop and reach for a camera they will take off and then settle down again a distance away . . . just enough that you can not get a good image to fill the negative of the about eight inch hawk. To me, getting a picture of them was what you might say "project impossible."

I was not thinking of Sparrow Hawks when on the morning after the April storm I started out on a county road, just opened up enough for two cars to meet or pass, to check and record any wildlife activity. About four miles out of town I came upon this life and death struggle: A female Sparrow Hawk with a rabbit about two weeks old in her talons . . . the little animal was still alive. But the hawk, with perhaps no food during the blizzard, very methodically disembowelled the little rabbit. The female Sparrow Hawk is less colorful but larger than the male. The Sparrow Hawk's body is just a little over eight inches in length with a wing spread of about twenty-one inches. They are a powerfully muscled little bird and I watched a good demonstration of that when I saw her tear the young rabbit apart.

Perhaps some of us do not want to go along with the idea of a baby rabbit being killed by a hawk. We must remember that all of nature's creatures have a place and purpose in this world. A rabbit provides food for predacious animals and birds. Also, if there were no check of the rabbit population they would soon devour all vegetation. - HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th Ave., Marshalltown.

Apparent Communal Roosting of Starlings and Sparrow Hawk. -- On December 12, 1972, we noticed Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at 7:50 A.M. leaving small holes in the side of a very tall chimney downtown in Des Moines, Iowa. Each hole was about 3 by 3.5 inches in size. On December 13, Starlings were again seen leaving these holes at 8:05 A.M. At 8:09 a male Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) emerged at the entrance to one of these holes, remained there for about 4 minutes and then flew off. This was followed at about 2-minute intervals by Starlings emerging from the same hole. It seemed probable that a total of eight Starlings had spent the night roosting in this hole with the falcon. The hole was one of four at the same height as the 10th floor of the Hotel Savery which was immediately adjacent to the chimney. A set of similar holes at a lesser height (perhaps at the 7th floor) was also being used by Starlings for roosting. From one of these we also saw eight Starlings emerge. A third set of holes much lower down had snow in the entrances and was obviously unused by birds. This chimney was in active operation at the time of our observations. -- JOSEPH J. HICKEY and ORRIN J.

RONGSTAD, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Marked Mourning Doves - Look Sharp! -- I will appreciate it very much if you would employ your means of communicating to your members or subscribers to notify me of any Mourning Doves you see bearing colored plastic wing markers. The colors are green, yellow and silver.

Large numbers of Mourning Doves remain over winter in Oklahoma but we do not know their origin. The local nesting population appears to move out by late fall and doves here in December and January seem to come from somewhere else.

Over 500 doves were banded and color marked during the past winter in southwestern Oklahoma. Any sightings of these birds in the coming spring or summer will reveal places where these birds nest. - JOHN A. MORRISON, Unit Leader, Oklahoma State U., 404 Life Science W., Stillwater, Oklahoma, 74074.

BOOK REVIEWS

Grouse and Quails of North America -- Paul A. Johnsgard -- University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln -- 553 p., 140 plates, 52 of these in color, 45 figures -- 1973 -- \$25.00.

A very comprehensive treatment of North American grouse and quails plus two introduced partridges. The book is somewhat incorrectly titled as it covers only the twenty-five species found north of Guatemala and omits the six species occurring from Panama to Guatemala. The author points out that little is known of the life history of these six species but he could at least have summarized that information. Aside from this point the book is superb. The first nine chapters cover the comparative biology of these species dealing with such specific topics as evolution, taxonomy, physical characteristics, molts, plumage, hybridization, reproduction, ecology, population dynamics, social behavior, vocalizations, aviculture, propagation, hunting, and recreation and conservation on a comparative basis. Next are the species accounts which include other names, range, subspecies, measurements, identification data, field marks, age and sex criteria, distribution and habitat, population density, habitat requirements, food and foraging behavior, mobility and movements, social and reproductive behavior, and evolutionary relationships. The illustrations include black and white and color photographs of the birds and their habitat and paintings of the adult birds of the lesser known species and downy young. The species accounts are written in a style aimed primarily at the non-technical reader.

This book should become a standard reference for the species covered. All college libraries and large public libraries should have a copy. Serious amateur birders will want to fully consider adding it to their personal libraries. ed.

Sea Birds -- David Saunders -- Grosset and Dunlap, New York -- 159 p., 200 color illustrations -- 1973 -- \$3.99; paperbound \$1.45 (Bantam).

Another in the growing Grosset all-color guide series, this volume is up to the high standards of its predecessors. The introduction covers the general taxonomy of this group of birds. Next the author explains the general distributional patterns of sea birds. The bulk of the text covers the various groups of sea birds, from penguins to auks. The coverage varies in detail but is very readable and many species are very well illustrated. Other birds often seen at sea such as phalaropes, ducks and loons are mentioned. A few references are mentioned for further reading.

This entire series, ranging from natural history subjects to history and wit-

chcraft, should be in any good public library. It is the type of book that can be read by anyone from beginner to expert with a gain in knowledge resulting for all. ed.

Kentucky Birds -- A Finding Guide -- Roger W. Barbour, Clell T. Peterson, Delbert Rust, Herbert C. Shadowen, and A. L. Whitt, Jr. -- University of Kentucky Press, Lexington -- 306 p., 239 color photographs, 21 maps -- 1973 -- \$9.75.

This group of authors has created a book, only slightly larger than a field guide, which presents the basic information on each species found in the state and particulars on forty-seven bird finding areas. Considering the amount of material presented and the number and general quality of the color photographs the book is a bargain by today's standards. Since the photographs are so well done for the most part some of the sub-par photographs demand mention. Some photographs are of mounted birds, a fact which should have been acknowledged. Poor color in the original or the reproduction is especially noteworthy with the breeding plumage Cattle Egret; the photo captioned American Golden Plover (one which seems reversed with the photo captioned Black-bellied Plover); cuckoos; Barn Owl and Warbling Vireo. Another apparent case of reversing captions occurred with the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. The Willet and Cowbird photos may be correctly identified but the view is not conducive to easily knowing they are the species indicated. The Hairy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch seem to have been changed from a vertical to a horizontal format in processing. The Greater Scaup and Wilson's Phalarope are shown with other species which are not identified. The species accounts give a capsule of field marks, size, habits and voice. The status in Kentucky is covered as is the timing of migration. Some information regarding nesting is given for birds breeding the state. The back of the book covers specific localities, describing them briefly and suggesting their birding potential.

This book, accompanied by a field guide, should enable a beginning birder to develop more rapidly and allows any birder visiting Kentucky to have a much more profitable trip than would have been possible before its publication. Do not let the several criticisms of the photographs deter you from purchasing the book. Examine a copy and consider its many virtues for yourself. ed.

Hawaiian Birdlife -- Andrew J. Berger -- University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu -- 270 p., 126 black and white figures, 59 color plates -- 1972 -- \$15.00.

Another beautifully produced state bird book joins the ranks and completely updates our picture of the bird life of this island state for the first in nearly thirty years. The previous state book, *Birds of Hawaii*, was originally published in 1944 and a recent reprinting with some minor revisions was reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 38, p. 63, 1968. Berger's book is larger in format, better illustrated, more complete and triple the price. The islands are introduced with an excellent summary of history, vegetation and conservation problems, of which these islands have had more than their share. The birds are split into four groups, indigenous, endemic, migratory and introduced species. The latter group is further treated by covering those species not known to be established and game species known to be established. The species accounts provide description, distribution statement, nesting information, and other life history information. The author is justifiably concerned for the future of many of the native birds. Much damage has been caused by the actions of introduced or escaped birds, which number at least 128 species, and mammals. Some were brought by Polynesians but whites are responsible for the vast majority of the most serious problem introductions. Perhaps some of the author's suggestions in these areas will be followed and some of the native forms can be maintained. ed.

Index Ornithologorum -- edited by W. Rydyswski -- 112 p. -- 1972 -- \$3.00. Orders should be sent to the **Editor of "The Ring"**, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrockaw, Poland. Checks should be made payable to **Polish Zoological Society**.

This is a listing of ornithologists from fifty-nine countries. The information presented includes year of birth, title, occupation or situation, memberships of principal ornithological organizations, editorships, principal interests in ornithology and address. Nearly one-third of those included are from the United States and the Soviet Union. While this is not a complete listing by any means it is a beginning and should promote correspondence among ornithologists with similar interests. This is facilitated by an index of principal interests. Suggestions for the next edition are welcomed and should be directed to Dr. Rydyewski at the address above. ed.

An Eye for a Bird -- the Autobiography of a Bird Photographer -- Eric Hosking with Frank W. Lane -- Paul S. Ericksson, Inc., New York -- 392 p., 8 p. color and 64 p. black and white photographs -- 1973 -- \$10.00.

Eric Hosking is probably the best known bird photographer in the world. His work can be found in the unbelievable total of over 700 books and his photo library consists of more than 150,000 photographs and 50,000 feet of motion picture film. Hosking had a remarkable life in many respects, not the least being the loss of his left eye after it was pierced by the talon of a Tawny Owl defending its nest. This incident, which occurred when he was twenty-seven, led to his choice of the title of this book and could have ended his hopes for a career as a photographer. Much of his work, and of course the book, deals with the British Isles. Travels to Norway, the Galapagos, Holland, Spain, Africa, Bulgaria, Jordan, Hungary and Pakistan are also covered.

Hosking's writing style is very straightforward but the book is spiced with humor and the end product is very readable. His book is in the fifth printing in Great Britain, a remarkable feat to accomplish in three years. In addition to the obvious appeal to nature photographers, the traveler will find much to interest him. ed.

Wingspread -- A World of Birds -- George Laycock -- Four Winds Press, New York -- 125 p., 67 black and white photographs -- 1972 -- \$5.95.

A well done childrens book aimed at ages 10-14 providing the reader with studies of sixteen birds. The birds dealt with are: Sandhill Crane, Canada Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Trumpeter Swan, Wild Turkey, California Condor, Arctic Tern, Laysan and Black-footed Albatross, Great Blue Heron, Common Loon, Prairie Chicken, gulls in general, Bald Eagle and Ravens. The text gives a brief life history sketch embellished with specializations of the bird. The photographs are excellent and do much to enhance the text. This is a good book for the age level to which it is directed. It is recommended primarily for junior high school libraries. ed.

Landscaping for Birds -- Shirley A. Briggs, Editor -- Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Washington, D. C. -- 62 p., many line drawings -- 1973 -- paperbound -- \$1.75 plus .25 postage.

This book is a collections of seven articles which appeared in the *Atlantic Naturalist* in recent years. The topics of these articles are planting for birds; basic landscaping principles; ornamental trees for wildlife planting; shrubs attractive to birds; landscaping the bulldozed lot; the birds come back and the bird garden. They are written specifically for the Washington area but contain much in the way of general advise which holds for Iowa. If you are planning some landscaping or are building a new home this booklet would be well worth the investment. ed.